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*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, PFS

FROM : Chief, LAS

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report #37

DATE: 12 September 1957
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3-10-78
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A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

W 1. During August, the Language and Area School initiated use of its [redacted] In sequence, six separate groups study- 25X1A6a ing Russian, German, French, Chinese and Polish have gone through the "living language" exercise. On an around-the-clock schedule, only the language of study is used. The exercise endeavors to approximate a variety of casual, informal situations resembling those in the country of study. The curriculum features "controlled sponteneity" as instructors develop informal discussions and a variety of living situations requiring wide use of general and specialized language. This exercise now is a regular part of intensive language training, and each class will have at least two periods at the site. During the final session all students are given the Agency's proficiency test.

W 2. Conduct of the out-of-hours voluntary language program as developed by the Language and Area School creates another activity in line with the DCI's desire to improve attractiveness of CIA employment. In response to the administrative policy of the School, over forty (40) staff employees from throughout the Agency have served or are serving as instructors under the School's supervision. This opportunity satisfies in part the frustrated desire of some persons to teach, provides an opportunity to supplement basic incomes, and is regarded by some as a desirable method of maintaining their own fluency through teaching.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

[redacted] conducted thirteen Qualifications Review and Place- 25X1A9a ment Panels on 29 August for sixteen candidates for intensive internal and external language and area programs. Panels were conducted on a half-hour schedule from 9a.m. to 5 p.m. On 11 September, four more panels were conducted. All candidates but one were for intensive language study at LAS, FSI and AIS. One was for graduate university study of China.

2. Counsel was provided several persons planning intensive language and academic studies. Areas include the Near East, the Far East and India.

3. LAS has been asked by the PP Staff to assist in locating a competent interpreter to meet provided specifications.

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4. A recent opportunity to compare objectively the quality of the LAS Chinese course with that of the FSI (heretofor rated by us as the best in the country) revealed that our basic course covers more than twice the material of the FSI course and our students at the end of eleven months are about where an FSI student is at the end of fifteen months. This, in spite of the fact that our staff is grossly inadequate in numbers. A subjective comparison with the Navy course comes out similarly. This superiority is due largely to the exceptional substantive and teaching qualities of [redacted] an impression recently confirmed when the undersigned recently observed [redacted] in action for three consecutive 18-hour-a-day days. 25X1A9a

5. Six registrations have been received for an out-of-hours Chinese course. Five are from FE. If an instructor can be recruited, the course will begin on 16 September. 25X1A6a

6. The full-time Chinese class successfully spent a week at [redacted] from 3-6 September. With this trip, the class came to a close, with five students completing the course. 25X1A9a

7. The Current Problems Seminar-Political Systems of Asia began on 9 September with [redacted] as principal instructors. 25X1A9a

8. Due to the fact that only one person signed up for the course, the [redacted] offering for the week of 16 September has been cancelled. The one applicant will be handled on an individual basis by [redacted] 25X1A9a

9. [redacted] on a three-month detail to LAS by the Office of Personnel, will plan a Basic Country Survey on Hungary in addition to assist-25X1A9a ing in the BCS-Germany this fall. With [redacted] anticipated plan for a BCS on Poland, we should then be prepared to schedule limited area training on these key Satellites in 1958-59, for which there is a high priority demand. 25X1A9a

10. [redacted] returned 9 September after 2 months of full-time Arabic at SAIS and 2 weeks of cacation in Massachusetts. 25X1A9a

11. The regular Spanish test was given to 7 people on 5 September; Mr. [redacted] (WH) and Mr. [redacted] (WH) served on the oral panel. 25X1A9a

12. The Chinese (Mandarin) test was given by special request on 5 September to 5 students of the full-time Chinese class; [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] (FE) served on the oral panel. 25X1A9a

13. The Russian test was given by special request to 1 person on 10 September. 25X1A9a

14. [redacted] met on 9 September to discuss the new grading system for proficiency tests, which uses 5 levels only, without minus or plus.

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15. Grades were recalculated for all past tests for which reports had not yet been sent through. In doing this, all minuses were counted as the next lower category; thus, IV- became III, etc. At the same time, the shift was made from the old number system to the new letter system of designations.

16. [REDACTED] telephoned Mr. Roy Benoit of USIA on 10 September to inquire whether USIA has personnel capable of composing tests in Amharic, Cambodian, Icelandic, Malay (Jawi), and Nepali. Mr. Benoit will investigate and inform [REDACTED].

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17. Mrs. [REDACTED] began the Typing Techniques course on 9 September.

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